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City of Milpitas Begins Review Process for New Waste Management Contract

City aims to improve service, increase efficiency and save money for residents with new contract

Milpitas community's opinions and feedback are essential to our ultimate success in selecting the best provider to fit our residents' needs, City says

Milpitas, California – The City of Milpitas will close bidding on October 27th in its process to issue a new waste management contract and will then begin the next phase in the process, which includes reviewing competitive submissions, interviewing finalists and soliciting input and participation from Milpitas citizens.

“The City of Milpitas is always striving to find ways to better the services we offer to our residents,” said Milpitas City Manager Tom Williams. “Our goal in this instance is to find a candidate that can maintain and improve upon our existing services and fulfill our essential recycling and waste management needs as efficiently as possible.”

With the City's current waste management contract with Republic Services expiring on September 5, 2017, City leadership felt it was necessary to open up the bidding process to evaluate the different programs and levels of service provided by different companies and ensure that the provider the city ultimately selects is the best fit for the job.

“Having a transparent and competitive selection process will help ensure the City finds and selects the best candidate to fulfill the needs of our citizens,” Williams said.

To assist in the review and selection process, the City hired Hilton Farnkopf & Hobson (HF&H), a consulting firm that specializes in the areas of recycling and solid waste management services, in July 2015. HF&H used their expertise to ensure that the criteria laid out in the City's Request for Proposals (RFP) would elicit interest from top-tier candidates willing and able to fulfill the City's needs. During the next phase of the project, HF&H will be responsible for reviewing the proposals and identifying the companies that fit the criteria laid out in the RFP.

Once HF&H narrows down the candidates to only the most qualified, the City will appoint a panel of judges to interview and rank the top candidates. As part of this selection process, the City and its panel of judges will reach out to the community to solicit feedback regarding what citizens desire from their waste hauling and recycling services, which will likely take place during a community meeting in December.

“The community’s opinions and feedback are essential to our ultimate success in selecting the best company to fit our community’s needs,” Williams said. “As part of the review and selection process, the City and its panel of judges will continue to reach out to the community to ask what is most important to them, helping to ensure strong public input into the process.”

The City already conducted their initial outreach during a May 20, 2015 community meeting to get residents’ feedback on the current services provided and to find out which services they would like added. From that meeting, the City learned that the community was most interested in improvements in street sweeping services, reducing greenhouse gas emissions when transporting waste, increasing available recycling services, more flexible self-hauling of waste to landfills and better customer service.

“The City and HF&H took the feedback from this meeting into account and incorporated many of the community’s suggestions into our RFP, review process and selection criteria to attract candidates that best align with our goals as a community,” Williams said. “Everything we are doing throughout this process is with our residents’ best interest at heart and we are confident that they will ultimately be happy with our choice.”

The selection process is scheduled to take several months with a recommendation to the City Council estimated to be provided in December 2015. The new contract would begin September 6, 2017 when Republic’s current contract ends.

“While the next contracting period would not begin until 2017, we are beginning the process early to ensure ample time to receive input from our residents and allow for operational adjustments should a new service provider be selected. Once the selected provider is instated, there may be some change in how our waste management services are carried out; however, we want to ensure our residents that the level and quality of our services will remain unaltered,” Williams said. “As always, our residents’ approval and satisfaction remain our highest priority.”